announced by Government as reported in the 'Sunday Observer' of the 1st July. 1990;

(b) whether the proposed 200 drugs which will come under price control are from amongst the list of about 250 essential drugs prepared by World Health Organisation;

(c) whether the price control will cut the profit margin of manufacturers and traders, who in turn are likely to cut or stop production of these essential drugs; and

(d) if so, what specific steps are proposed to be taken to deal with the problem and by when the new policy is likely to come into force ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) Government has decided to review the 1986 Drug Policy with the objectives of increasing the indigenous production of drugs encouraging fresh investments and giving reasonable return to the industry, as well as to make quality medicines easily available to the consumers at reasonable prices. The process of review is on.

Categorisation of drugs needed for National Health Programmes

2944. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA :
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 899 on the 16th August. 1990 given in the Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) when did his Ministry took the decision to include all drugs needed for National Health Programmes under Category-I;

(b) when his Ministry wrote to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to provide the list of such drugs and names of the National Health Programmes;

(c) whether his Ministry has received the list from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and

(d) if so, when and if not, what steps have been taken to expedite the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) The requisite information has already been finished in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2187 answered on 27-8-1990.

Price approval by importers of formulations

2945. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Questton 901 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th August, 1990 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all imported formulations based on drugs not included under Schedules I and II are exempted from price control irrespective of sales turnover;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the importers of medicines have applied for price approval under DPCO, 1987;

(c) what is the total number of applications received by his Ministry for fixation of prices for imported formulations under DPCO, 1987 and in how many cases prices were fixed;

(d) whether it is a fact that importers are charging very high prices for their formulations; and